

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 2847 - HB 3140

February 15, 2012

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires a person to declare a statewide political party affiliation before voting in a primary election. Requires the statewide political party affiliation to be added to the voter's permanent registration record along with the statement, "Notice: A voter choosing not to select a statewide political party affiliation shall not be eligible to vote in a primary election." Voters registering prior to July 1, 2012, must declare a statewide political party affiliation before the qualifying deadline for candidates to file in order to vote in a primary election. Any person not registered to vote prior to July 1, 2012, may vote in a primary election but will be required to declare a party affiliation prior to voting in a subsequent primary election. Voters wishing to change their party affiliation may do so no later than five days prior to a primary election.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$98,600/One-Time

Assumptions:

- Party affiliation will be added to the statewide voter registration database.
- According to the Coordinator of Elections, updating the database will require eight applications/programs/interfaces that will take approximately 25 hours to complete at a cost of \$83.00 per hour, resulting in a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$16,600 (25 hours x 8 x \$83.00 per hour). This work will be performed by the Office of Information Resources (OIR).
- According to the Coordinator of Elections, new voter registration applications were recently purchased at a cost of approximately \$82,000. The cost to reprint new voter registration applications to comply with the requirements of this bill will result in a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$82,000.
- Total increase in one-time state expenditures is estimated to be \$98,600 (\$16,600 + \$82,000).
- Based on information from local Administrators of Elections, a modification of the voter registration software to capture the party affiliation will not involve an additional cost to county election commission offices, since the modification is expected to be covered under the annual service agreement.
- Any impact to county election commission offices can be accommodated within existing resources without additional personnel or without a reduction in other budget items.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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